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FROM : AMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

December 12, 1956

REF :

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REC'D	EVR-5 12-14	RUMA-2 OCI-8 P-1. ENR/X-1 4/OP-1 (4/OP-1) TO-4 CIA-15 USIA-10 OCB-1 ARMY 4 NAVY 3
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SUBJECT: East European Socialist Exiles Meet in Copenhagen

At a two-day gathering in Copenhagen December 2-3 representatives of Central and East European Social Democratic Parties in exile proclaimed their solidarity with the "East European peoples' fight against communist dictatorship"; noted that the adherents of democratic socialism in that area have clung to their convictions despite years of persecution; and praised the young workers and students who have sparked the revolts in the East. The resolution outlining the exile group's views also called on the UN to counteract Soviet aggression in Hungary and to remove the threat of Soviet aggression against other countries. (A translation of the resolution, as printed in the newspaper Social Democracy, is attached as an enclosure to this despatch.) Hungarian Socialist Anna LÉTHY attended the meeting but stressed that her role was that of an observer only since she does not yet consider herself an exile. Remarks of the several main speakers are outlined below.

József TÁPÓKAI, Poland, chairman of the Socialist exile organization, stressed that recent changes in Poland were caused by pressure from the working class; expressed skepticism on the prospects of the Gomulka government, especially in meeting worker demands for better living conditions and higher wages; and concluded that the trend in Poland might lead to tragic events on the Hungarian model.

Ernő TALMÁCS, Latvia, deputy chairman of the exile group, discussed developments in the Soviet Union, noting that Soviet is not facing a revolution but that de-Stalinization has progressed so far there that the clock cannot be turned back, particularly because "enormous unrest" prevails among Russian youth. He felt that the Soviet system is in eclipse and that whether it takes the Polish or the Hungarian road will depend upon the rulers of Russia.

Pavlo PRYKHODKO, head of the Ukrainian Socialist Party, declared that the Ukraine for years has faced deportations and terror, as has Hungary also in recent weeks, and that 1 1/2 million Ukrainians have been deported in the last few years.

Johannes HEDWIGSON, chairman of the Estonian Socialist Party, claimed that conditions in his country are terrible, with realistic growing among intellectuals and youth; events in Poland and Hungary have made a deep impression; and foreign

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John Dougherty

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SOURCES/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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radio broadcasts, especially those from Sweden, are being listened to increasingly. On behalf of all three Baltic states, he emphasized that those states had not joined the USSR voluntarily and he asked that they not be forgotten by the rest of the world.

Answering the question of why nothing is heard of unrest in Czechoslovakia, Karel Vojtěch, secretary of Czech Socialists, explained that his country had and still has highly Stalinistic rulers; that the Communist Party there was strong even before the war; that the standard of living in Czechoslovakia long has been above that of East Europe generally; and that Soviet troops have not been concentrated there as they have been in other Soviet-dominated countries. He added, however, that in the final analysis "Czech workers know their responsibility to democracy".

Sergio Vojta, Romania's postwar Minister to Paris, commented that there has also been unrest in Romania recently and that the government in that country faces difficulties.

Other participants in the meeting included Dr. Kivko TOPALOVITCH, chairman of the Yugoslav Socialist Party; Valdemar RASTVOLD, former Latvian Finance Minister; Dr. George TAKÁČ, Hungarian Socialist Party chairman; Antal HOLLÓS, Hungarian politician; and Ivan HALLIBURTON, chairman of the Hungarian Socialist Party.

This meeting followed immediately the November 30-December 2 assembly of the Council of the Socialist International, held also in Copenhagen (see Embassy Despatch no. 443, December 4, 1956, entitled "Meeting of the Council of Socialist International, November 30-December 2".

For the Ambassador:

John D. Gough
John D. Gough
Second Secretary

Enclosure:

Translation of resolution

cc: Brussels
London
Paris

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UNCLAS/2122
Urgent, no. 1
Dep. no. 461
Free Copenhagen
Resolution Passed at meeting of Soviet
League held in Copenhagen, December 23, 1956

Recent remarkable events in Eastern countries, particularly in Poland and Hungary, have clearly shown that the masses long for freedom — for full political freedom, the right freely to form democratic parties and the right to elect their own government — a freedom which, in present circumstances, must be realized through free elections under international control.

It is furthermore undeniably proved that the peoples behind the Iron curtain work for full national independence, free of all foreign colonial suppression and exploitation in any form. Any progress in this direction opens new prospects in the fight to achieve full independence.

This is the main contents of a resolution, approved yesterday at the meeting of Unified Social Democratic Party of Central and East Europe. The resolution expresses the greatest solidarity with the fight of the East European peoples against communist dictatorship. Their outstanding heroism has given new hope and new courage to all those supporting freedom and freedom, it is stated.

It is a prominent trait of recent revolutionary uprisings that it is among where the labor class, and first of all young workers and students, who have been the driving force and advance guard in the fight, and that the adherents of democratic socialism — in spite of years of persecution — have remained faithful to their conviction, the revolution states further. They demand democratic socialism with full human rights, equally rejecting a return to pre-war conditions and maintenance of the present over-centralized state capitalism and forced collectivization of land. It is encouraging that neither through teaching of Communism nor the destruction by communist policy of socialist ideas has shaken the conviction of the masses that it is socialism which shows the way to a better future.

The resolution concludes with an appeal to the UN to take the most effective steps to counteract Soviet aggression against Hungary and to remove the threat of Soviet aggression against other countries. The decision concerning the establishment of an international UN police force should be given. General control and monitoring and should be used in Hungary, since Hungary's fight for freedom and independence is an international cause which involves all the nations of the world.

The meeting further approved brief greetings to Hungarian soldiers and officers who had joined the resistance movement because also the Hungarian people are considered as suppressed by the Soviet dictators.

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T. J. H. 23/12/56